

IN THE CLAIMS

On substitute page 6, line 1, change "New Patent Claims" to --I Claim:--.

Amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) [Signalling means] A signalling apparatus for processing
2 signalling messages, comprising
-- links via which the signalling [means] apparatus is connected to other
4 signalling [means] apparatus,
-- at least one signalling system that sends signalling messages to the other
6 signal [means] apparatus or, respectively, receives signalling messages
from the other signalling apparatus [these] via said links,
8 [characterized by]
-- [a] said signalling system that respectively allocates a signalling network
10 identity to said links [a link];
-- at least one of said links that is returned in a loop from [the] a signalling
12 point to the [same] signalling point[, what is referred to] as a loop link,
[whereby] different signalling network identities being [are] allocated to
14 the loop link at [the] an output and input side by the signalling system.

- 2.(Amended) [Signalling means] A signalling apparatus according to
2 claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said signalling system, with [the]
assistance of a said loop link[,] communicates signalling messages between two
4 other signalling systems contained in the signalling [means] to which is
respectively provided [comprises] an interface.

- 3.(Amended) [Signalling means] A signalling apparatus according to
2 claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said signalling system generates internal
load for test purposes with [the] assistance of [at least one] said loop link.

4.(Amended) [Signalling means] A signalling apparatus according to
2 claim 1, wherein [characterized in that] said signalling system realizes an
interworking [Internetworking *[sic]*] communication with other networks with
4 [the] assistance of a said loop link.

5.(Amended) [Signalling means] A signalling apparatus according to [one
2 of the claims] claim 1 [through 4], wherein [characterized in that] said signalling
system is a signalling system according to No. 7 and allocates [the] a same
4 network identifier [(NI)] to said loop link at the output and input side.

6.(Amended) [Method] A method for signalling in a signalling means,
2 comprising the steps of: [in accord wherewith]
-- [a signalling system of the signalling means allocates] allocating signalling
4 network identities to [the] links of [the] a signalling [means] apparatus by
a signalling system;
6 -- [the signalling system allocates] allocating different signalling network
identities at [the] an output and input side to a link[, what is referred to] as
8 [the] a loop link[,] that is returned from the signalling apparatus [means] to
[the] a same signalling means in a loop.